花蝕 (かしょく)
WILTED FLOWERS

HE CAME BURSTING INTO MY LIFE

加瀬シキ (かやせ)
KAYASE SHIKI

THIS STRANGE, SELF-PROCLAIMED ANGEL OF A MAN INTRODUCED HIMSELF AS CYNTHIO.
I'LL PROVE IT TO YOU.
INSIDE MY BODY ARE FLOWER PETALS
BUT, LATELY, PERHAPS BECAUSE I'VE BEEN ON EARTH FOR TOO LONG,
ORGANS HAVE STARTED FORMING IN MY BODY

WHAT IS IT YOU WANT ME TO DO?
I CAN'T RETURN TO HEAVEN WITH DAMAGED ORGANS
HUMAN ORGANS EXPERIENCE PAIN, DON'T THEY?
I WANT YOU TO SUPPRESS THE CHANGES IN MY BODY AS MUCH AS POSSIBLE
AS FOR THE PARTS THAT HAVE UNDERGONE THOSE CHANGES, I WANT YOU TO KEEP THEM IN PERFECT CONDITION
I'M PRESENTING YOU A RARE OPPORTUNITY, MY GOOD MAGE
YOU NEED NOT HAVE ANY QUALMS ABOUT CUTTING ME MY CUTS HEAL QUICKLY
VERY WELL.
JUST PERFECT FOR MY RESEARCH
THIS ISN'T SOMEONE YOU GET TO SEE EVERY DAY
WELL, WELL. HE DID SAY HE'D PAY WITH HIS BODY
TRUE

I ACCEPT.
HAVING ONLY JUST BEGUN RESEARCH ON HOMUNCULI,
I ACCEPTED HIS REQUEST
AND THUS BEGAN OUR STRANGE LIFE TOGETHER
I THOUGHT HOMUNCULI WERE STRICTLY THE TRADE OF ALCHEMISTS
chingg
EVERY DAY, I WOULD EXAMINE HIM AND PREPARE HERBS.
I WOULD CUT HIM OPEN AND OBSERVE HIS ORGANS
clink
THEN AGAIN, BOTH MAGES AND ALCHEMISTS TRY TO ENCROACH ON GOD'S DOMAIN. IN THAT SENSE, YOU ARE THE SAME.
YOU DON'T NEED ME—YOU CAN CREATE YOUR OWN BODY.
IF YOU CAN CREATE GOLD...

GOD ALONE CAN CREATE LIFE
DON'T BE FOOLISH, GRAN
I HAD NO REASON TO BELIEVE HE WAS AN ANGEL,
BUT I ALSO HAD NONE TO DENY IT
WHY WON'T YOU RETURN TO HEAVEN?
WERE YOU BANISHED?
ON WHAT CHARGE?
THE ORGANS IN CYNTHIO'S BODY...
GREW LIKE A CHILD IN A WOMB...
EVEN SO...

...EACH TIME I CUT HIM OPEN, THERE WAS A SWEET SMELL EMANATING FROM HIS BODY.
YOU'RE STILL DECAYING

HIS BODY, NOW INCARNATE AND TOUCHED BY PAIN, IS NO LONGER DIFFERENT FROM A HUMAN'S.
CYNTHIO, AT THIS RATE...
THE PETALS THAT WERE ONCE ROSE-COLORED...
ARE TURNING BROWN, PEEKING FROM IN BETWEEN ORGANS
I SEE YOU'VE PERFECTED YOUR HOMUNCULUS, GRAN.
MY MIND— NO, I HAVE A BRAIN NOW, I SUPPOSE—
WHY DON'T YOU TRANSFER IT TO YOUR HOMUNCULUS?
CYNTHIO... YEARS AGO, YOU TOLD ME ONLY GOO CAN CREATE LIFE.

I DID,
DIO I?
SOMETIMES WHEN LOOKING AT HIS BODY WHICH IS STARTING TO REEK, I WONDER.
TO BEGIN WITH, THERE ARE NO SUCH THINGS AS ANGELS, ARE THERE?
IS THIS MAN HERE WITH ME...
A MAGE OR A TRICKSTER?
WAS I...
BEREFT OF LIFE UNDER HIS SPELL?
END

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